THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Shatabdi Expresses are fully AC trains with sitting accommodation and introduced between points having sufficient day time intercity type of passenger traffic.

Rajdhani Expresses are fully AC trains run between State Capitals and Delhi.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Rajdhani Expresses are planned during the current year as under :

1. New Delhi-Patna via Lucknow (bi-weekly)

2. New Delhi-Ahmedabad (weekly) after gauge conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad line.

3. Diversion of Hazrat Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Express via Goa.

Item No. 2 will be introduced after completion of the gauge conversion between Ajmer-Mehsana and Item No. 3 after commissioning of the Konkan Railway and also manufacture of additional coaches.

Extension of Train

4037. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken action on the demand for extension of Kannur-Trivandrum Express upto Mangalore; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Himgiri Express

4038. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare Himgiri Express as a superfast train;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not fulfil the criterion of superfast train.

[Translation]

Booking Windows

4039. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open additional booking windows at Kota station in view of the increasing rush of passengers and trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing counters are considered adequate to deal with the present level of traffic handled at Kota station.

Forest Villages

4040. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of forest villages in Madhya Pradesh and the number of villages out of them converted into the Revenue villages;

(b) whether the final clearance has been obtained from the Union Government for converting the remaining villages into Revenue villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d) There are 1346 forest villages in 30 districts of Madhya Pradesh in respect of which proposal have been received from the state Government for renewal of pattas of occupants of these forest villages. Although the state Government had earlier forwarded 10 proposals for conversion of 216 forest villages into revenue villages, however during the processing, these proposals were later on revised by the State Government to renewal of pattas over forest land instead of denotification of forest land to revenue area. In view of the revised proposals, the issue of considering conversion of forest villages into revenue villages in Madhya Pradesh does not arise.

[English]

Railway Electrification

4041. SHRI BASDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :